Dear Mr Percy W Misika,

RE: APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE FOR THE PROPOSED OTJKOTO AGRICULTURAL PROJECT ON FARM EHRARSHOF 575, IN THE OTJOZONDJUPA REGION, NAMIBIA

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC) has been contracted by B2Gold Namibia Properties (Pty) Ltd, to act on their behalf in the application for the environmental clearance certificate for the proposed Otjkoto Agricultural Project on the farm Erhardshof 575, in the Otjozondjupa region, Namibia.

The proposed project will be located on Farm Erhardshof 575, which is approximately 3 522 hectares in size, of which the total irrigated project size at the end of the final phase will be 135 hectares. The intention is to develop the irrigated area in a phased process, step-by-step as more information becomes available, initially planting fodder crops such as Katambora Rhodes grass for cattle and other animals, as well as planting rotational grain crops such as maize and wheat. The proposed project will develop in four phases as described below:

- The first phase, year 1: 15ha starting October 2020, then expanding later that season to
- Phase 2, which is 30ha in total (adding 15ha) and if feasible expand to
- The third phase, year 2: 75ha (extra 45ha added), and
- The fourth phase, year 3: 135ha (another 60ha added).

The proposed agricultural project will implement a center pivot irrigation system, using three (3) boreholes connected to a pipeline for water supply. No water storage dam is planned. An 11kV overhead powerline will be constructed over approximately 8.1km from the B2Gold solar plant on the farm Wolfshag to Erhardshof for the operation of the pivots.
In terms of Section 32(1) of the Environmental Management Act (EMA), No. 7 of 2007, ECC has determined that the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) is the Competent Authority for the proposed project as it triggers the following Listed Activities that fall within the jurisdiction and mandate of MAWLR:

- **ENERGY GENERATION, TRANSMISSION AND STORAGE ACTIVITIES**
  - 1b. The transmission and supply of electricity.

- **FORESTRY ACTIVITIES**
  - 4. The clearance of forest areas, deforestation, afforestation, timber harvesting or any other related activity that requires authorisation in terms of the Forest Act, No. 12 of 2001 or any other law.

- **WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTS**
  - 8.1 Abstraction of ground or surface water for industrial or commercial purposes.
  - 8.7 Irrigation schemes for agriculture excluding domestic irrigation.

An application for a forestry permit under the Forest Act, 2001 and an application for the water abstraction licence under the Water Act, 1956 and Water Resources Management Act, 2013 have been applied for to the relevant Competent Authorities.

Due to the nature of the proposed project, ECC has conducted a high-level environmental assessment in order to produce an environmental scoping report and environmental management plan. Therefore, ECC hereby submits the attached application for your consideration and review:

- **COMPLETED FORM 1 (ATTACHED)** – Environmental Management Act, No 7, of 2007, section 32 application environmental clearance certificate

- **ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPLING PLUS ASSESSMENT REPORT** – The Scoping Report

- **PROJECT SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (EMP)** – Project specific EMP has been developed for the proposed project (Appendix A of the Scoping Report)

Both the environmental assessment and environmental management plan here attached and submitted to the Office of the Executive Director of MAWLR is provided for your review, input, and feedback. ECC kindly requests confirmation that the above application is acceptable by your office and in order to fulfill the requirements as per Section 17(b) and Section 33(1) of the Environmental Management Act, 2007.
ECC aspires to build an open and transparent relationship with your office and ECC understands that the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) are the Competent Authority for this project, therefore we understand that once MAWLR completes the review of the attached application, MAWLR will forward the application to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism for their attention and action.

Should you or your office require our assistance with the details contained within this letter or any project specific details, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will gladly assist.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

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